

Message Text

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FM AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1831

S E C R E T ALEXANDRIA 0509

NODIS CHEROKEE

FROM AMBASSADOR EILTS IN ALEXANDRIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV EG

SUBJECT: LONDON MIDDLE EAST MEETING AND RELATED MATTERS

REF: A. ALEXANDRIA 0500 B. STATE 167142

1. SUMMARY: MUBARAK CONFIRMS THERE NO RPT NO CHANGES IN EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL. ALSO QUERIES PROPOSED JULY 18-19 DATES FOR LONDON MEETING BECAUSE THEY COINCIDE WITH OAU SUMMIT. HE IS URGING SADAT ATTEND OAU SUMMIT FOR DAY OR SO BECAUSE OF NUMAYRI. I MADE STRONG PITCH THAT GOE ACCEPT REVISED SCENARIO, WHICH IS BASED ON KAMEL'S SUGGESTION. MUBARAK WILL CONSULT WITH SADAT LATER TODAY AND LET ME KNOW THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. MUBARAK ALSO BELIEVES SADAT TOLD TURKI BIN FAYSAL ABOUT LIKELY KAMEL/DAYAN MEETING AND WILL HAVE KAMEL INFORM SAUD BIN FAYSAL TODAY ABOUT THE PROBABLY MEETING. HE WILL LET US KNOW SADAT'S VIEWS ON WHEN WE SHOULD WEIGH IN WITH SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS. END SUMMARY

2. VP MUBARAK CONFIRMED TO ME TODAY THAT GOE HAS NO RPT NO CHANGES IN MIND FOR EGYPTIAN WEST BANK/GAZA COUNTERPROPOSAL. (THIS IS PROBABLY ALL TO THE GOOD,

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SINCE ANY LAST MINUTE CHANGES MFA WERE TO DEVELOP WOULD PROBABLY BE RETROGRESSIVE.)

3. WISH ALERT DEPARTMENT TO POSSIBILITY THAT EGYPTIANS MAY RPT MAY ASK FOR SLIGHT FURTHER DELAY IN DATES OF LONDON MEETING. PROBLEM IS THAT PROPOSED JULY 18-19 DATES COINCIDE WITH OAU SUMMIT

MEETING. MUBARAK TOLD ME THIS MORNING THAT THERE IS POSSIBILITY SADAT MAY ATTEND OAU SUMMIT FOR DAY OR SO. IF HE DOES, IT WILL PROBABLY BE JULY 17-18. SADAT DOES NOT WANT TO GO, BUT MUBARAK IS URGING HIM TO DO SO FOR SAKE OF NUMAYRI. MUBARAK EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT EGYPTIAN DEL TO OAU SUMMIT MIGHT FIND IT POLITICALLY EMBARRASSING IF LONDON MEETING IS TAKING PLACE CONCURRENTLY. WE TRIED TO CONTACT SADAT TO ASCERTAIN HIS VIEWS, BUT HE WAS OUT WALKING. MUBARAK UNDERTOOK GET IN TOUCH WITH SADAT LATER THIS MORNING AND WILL CALL ME BACK TO LET ME HAVE PRESIDENT'S THINKING.

4. I MADE STRONG PITCH THAT GOE STICK TO REVISED SCENARIO, INCLUDING JULY 18-19 DATES. I POINTED OUT THAT WE HAVE SOUGHT TO ACCOMMODATE FONMIN KAMEL'S SPECIFIC REQUEST THAT LONDON MEETING BE HELD WEEK OR SO LATER THAN ORIGINALLY INTENDED. MOREOVER, WITH GREAT DIFFICULTY, WE HAVE MANAGED TO RESERVE SUFFICIENT ROOMS AT CHURCHILL HOTEL FOR JULY 17-19. WHILE WE APPRECIATE POTENTIAL PROBLEM WHICH MUBARAK HAD FLAGGED, I SUGGESTED THAT OAU SUMMIT SHOULD NOT BE AS SENSITIVE ON THIS MATTER AS, FOR EXAMPLE, AN ARAB SUMMIT. ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, AND ESPECIALLY SINCE SADAT DOES ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE OF SUCH A MEETING, IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTEREST TO HOLD THE MEETING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE LEST OTHER PRESSURES DEVELOP AGAINST IT.

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5. MUBARAK ACKNOWLEDGED MY POINTS, BUT NOTED NUMAYRI IS HEAD OF ARAB RECONCILIATION GROUP. I SAID THAT I KNEW THIS, BUT RECALLED SADAT HAD TOLD ME HE HAD EARLIER MADE IT CLEAR TO NUMAYRI THAT HE DOES NOT AGREE TO STOPPING ANY SENIOR EGYPTIAN/ISRAELI MEETINGS. HE HAD ONLY AGREED THAT ANY SUCH MEETINGS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE IN EGYPT. THUS, IF I CORRECTLY UNDERSTOOD SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO NUMAYRI, WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING IS IN NO WAY INCONSISTENT WITH THAT COMMITMENT. I AGAIN NOTED THAT THE JULY 18-19 DATES ARE CONSISTENT WITH WHAT KAMEL HAD SUGGESTED. I ASSUMED THAT KAMEL, IN SUGGESTING WEEK'S DELAY, HAD HAD IN MIND THE OAU SUMMIT ASPECT.

6. MUBARAK AGREED OUR PROPOSED MEETING IS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH SADAT'S COMMITMENT TO NUMAYRI. AS FOR KAMEL, HE CLAIMED THE FONMIN IS NOT RPT NOT AWARE OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT SADAT MAY ATTEND THE OAU SUMMIT FOR A DAY OR SO. IF SADAT DOES GO, MUBARAK SAID, KAMEL WILL BE EXPECTED TO GO ALONG. I POINTED OUT THAT WHILE DECISION IS ONE FOR GOE TO TAKE, IT

WILL NOT LOOK GOOD FOR EGYPT IF IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR FURTHER DELAYING MEETING. ISRAELIS COULD USE THIS IN CURRENT PUBLIC RELATIONS TUG-OF-WAR BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. MUBARAK SAID HE UNDERSTANDS THIS AND RE-INTERATED THAT HE WILL DISCUSS MATTER WITH SADAT LATER THE MORNING TO ASCERTAIN THE PRESIDENT'S VIEWS. PERHAPS, HE NOTED, SADAT WILL NOT FEEL THAT THE OAU SUMMIT IS SIFFICIENTLY IMPORTANT OR SENSITIVE TO WARRANT ANY FURTHER DELAY.

7. I ASKED MUBARAK GIVE THE PRESIDENT A CLEAR READING OF THE REVISED SCENARIO (PARA 3, STATE 167142). I SUGGESTED THAT IF SADAT WISHES DISCUSS MATTER WITH ME, I AM AT HIS DISPOSAL AT ANY TIME. MUBARAK ASSURED ME
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HE WILL GIVE SADAT ALL DETAILS OF OUR REVISED SCENARIO, WHICH HE ADMITTED HE HAD YESTERDAY RECEIVED (BUT CLEARLY NOT DIGESTED) FROM KAMEL IN CAIRO.

8. MUBARAK ALSO SAID IT IS HIS IMPRESSION THAT SADAT HAD LAST WEEK BRIEFED PRINCE TURKI BIN FAYSAL ON THE LIKELIHOOD OF A KAMEL/DAYAN MEETING AT PRESIDENT CARTER'S INVITATION. MUBARAK IS INSTRUCTING KAMEL IN CAIRO ALSO TO MENTION MATTER TO SAUDI FONMIN SAUD BIN FAYSAL, WHO IS ATTENDING ARAB LEAGUE MEETING ON YEMEN NOW UNDERWAY. IN ADDITION ABOVE, MUBARAK SAID HE WILL ASCERTAIN SADAT'S VIEWS ON WHEN WE SHOULD WEIGH IN WITH SAUDIS AND JORDANIANS.

9. WILL REPORT SOON AS I HEAR FROM MUBARAK LATER TODAY.

10. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT PASS THIS MESSAGE TO SAUNDERS IN JERUSALEM. MCCLELLAND

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